

A RESOLUTION to honor Jerry Hayes and to adopt his song,
“Thanks to Them” as the official state song in
honor of all Tennessee World War II veterans.

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should honor those important veterans who continue to promote Americanism and patriotism throughout their venerable lives; and

WHEREAS, such a man is Jerry Hayes, a distinguished Vietnam veteran and former U.S. Marine who continues to serve our nation by virtue of his amazing musical talents; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hayes performed more than 60 musical concerts last year in our schools; his “Tribute to American Veterans” show has been praised by all who have had the good fortune to see it; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his efforts to promote patriotism, Jerry Hayes was awarded one of the highest accolades from the Veterans of Foreign Wars: the Americanism Award; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Hayes has also had the distinct honor of having his outstanding musical composition, “Thanks to Them”, adopted as an official song to honor World War II veterans by the state of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, upon this 50th anniversary of the end of World War II, it is appropriate that this General Assembly also adopts, “Thanks to Them” as the official state song honoring Tennessee World War II veterans; and

WHEREAS, this touching tribute to the members of our armed forces reads as follows:

Our young men fight this nation's wars. Sometimes I wonder just what for, then I see my wife and son as they smile! I think of all my friends and then, that I'll never see again and I hope that their dying was worth while!

For those who died in foreign lands, we should all give a damn! 'Cause we're all still walking FREE! These wars were fought on foreign soil! No shots were fired here at all! No blood was shed upon our ground! Thanks to Them!

Now there's a meaning to this song. I don't know if I'm right or wrong. I fought with them; we laughed, we cried. I saw them when they fell and died!

For those fathers and mothers who lost their sons, we can only pray this war was won. And pray they did not die in vain, and peace and freedom still remain.....THANKS TO THEM!

WHEREAS, our state is fortunate to have Mr. Hayes performing this worthy composition May 1, 1995, at the commemoration ceremony of the 50th anniversary of the end of the second World War; and

WHEREAS, this year, as we call upon all of our citizens to pay homage to the many veterans from our great state and nation, we also wish to honor Mr. Jerry Hayes for his contributions and excellence in promoting Americanism and patriotic principles; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Jerry Hayes for his efforts and adopt his song, "Thanks to Them", as the state of Tennessee's official song honoring World War II veterans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.